

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 230913Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2567

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO

1. DURING CALLS ON ARCHBISHOP SIN AND SENATORS TANADA AND SALONGA WITH COUNTRY DIRECTOR FLECK ON APR 23, EMBASSY LEARNED THAT AQUINO IS STILL ON HIS FAST, NOW IN ITS 20TH DAY. AQUINO, ACCORDING TO THEM, IS TAKING ONLY WATER AND SALT. TANADA, WHO VISITED AQUINO TWO DAYS AGO, SAID THAT AQUINO WAS BEGINNING TO SHOW THE EFFECTS OF THE FAST, WAS WEAK, ABLE ONLY TO SIT UP AND HIS BREATH HAD NOW BECOME FOUL. TANADA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD HEARD THAT THE LONGEST SIMILAR FAST WAS 35 DAYS, THEY NOW ANTICIPATED THAT AQUINO COULD NOT LAST MUCH MORE THAN ANOTHER WEEK.

2. ARCHBISHOP SIN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WATCHING AQUINO CLOSELY AND WAS PREPARED TO FEED HIM INTRAVENOUSLY SHOULD HE LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS.

3. TANADA AND SALONGA BOTH FELT THAT AQUINO WAS DETERMINED TO GO THROUGH WITH FAST TO DEATH. ALTHOUGH TANADA SUGGESTED THAT AQUINO WOULD STOP FAST ONLY IF MARCOS AGREED TO HIS FIRST THREE CONDITIONS, SALONGA SUGGESTED AQUINO WOULD HAVE GOOD REASON TO END HIS FAST IF SUPREME COURT AGREED TO TRANSFER HIS CASE TO CIVIL COURT. SALONGA SUGGESTED MARCOS WAS TIMING SUPREME COURT DECISION TO BE MADE BEFORE AQUINO

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SHOWED ANY SERIOUS SIGNS OF WEAKENING. AS WE LEFT SALONGA'S

OFFICE, HE RECEIVED CALL STATING SUPREME COURT HAD REJECTED AQUINO'S PETITION TO WITHDRAW HIS EARLIER PETITIONS (DECISION SALONGA EVIDENTLY WELCOMED) AND HE THOUGHT HE WOULD LEARN SHORTLY DECISION THAT SUPREME COURT PLANNED TO TAKE ON AQUINO'S CIVIL TRIAL.

COMMENT: AS AQUINO FAST CONTINUES, WAVERING IN HIS RANKS GROWS. BOTH SALONGA AND TANADA COMMENTED ON DIFFICULTY OF AQUINO'S FAST RECEIVING ANY ATTENTION IN VIEW OF EVENTS OCCURRING IN INDOCHINA AND ELSEWHERE AND TANADA SAID PRIVATE SURVEY OF MANILA SAMPLE SHOWED THAT AQUINO FAST RANKED ONLY NO. 6 AS NEWS ITEM (NO DOUBT DUE IN PART TO FACT GOP HAS APPARENTLY IMPOSED NEWS BLACKOUT ON AQUINO FOR PAST WEEK). EVEN TANADA SEEMS TO BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ADVISABILITY OF AQUINO PERSISTING IN HIS FAST IF HIS EFFORTS WILL MAKE SO LITTLE IMPACT. WHETHER AQUINO WOULD LISTEN TO CONTRARY ADVICE FROM ADVISORS AT THIS POINT IN TIME, HOWEVER, IS NOT PREDICTABLE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINS, RP, (AQUINO)
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